

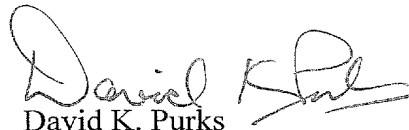
REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the continued detailed examination of the present application in the Final Office Action. Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's finding that Claim 6 contains patentable subject matter and would be allowable if amended into independent form including all the limitations of its base Claim 1 and any intervening claims. Accordingly, to place the application in condition for immediate allowance, Claim 1 has been amended to include all limitations of Claim 6, and Claim 6 has been canceled. Claims 11-16 have been canceled. Independent Claim 17 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of amended Claim 1. Claims 18-21 have been amended to conform with Claim 17 from which they depend.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 1 and 17 and the claims depending therefrom are in condition for immediate allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at (919) 854-1400.

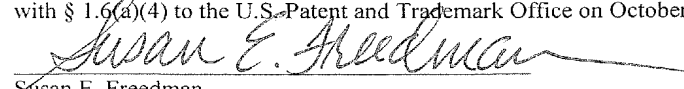
Respectfully submitted,


David K. Purks
Registration No. 40,133
Attorney for Applicant(s)

USPTO Customer No. 39072
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
P. O. Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: 919/854-1400
Facsimile: 919/854-1401

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 30, 2007.


Susan E. Freedman
Date of Signature: October 30, 2007